

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**ADDING HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES AND LOW ENERGY LIGHT BULBS
TO THE EXISTING KERBSIDE SERVICE**

CABINET: 24th NOVEMBER, 2009

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING & TRANSPORT

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval to add household batteries and low energy light bulbs to the existing kerbside recycling service in line with the proposals contained within this report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members approve the addition of household batteries and low energy light bulbs to the existing kerbside recycling service.**

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 Council 11 December 2008 – Minute No. 59
3.2 Council 29 January 2009 – Minute No. 72

4. INFORMATION

CHANGES TO LEGISLATION – TAKE BACK SCHEME

- 4.1 The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 came into force on 5th May 2009, with Section 4 portable batteries taking effect from 1st February 2010.
- 4.2 Manufacturers and importers of batteries will have to demonstrate that they are recycling a proportion of the amount of new batteries they place on the market each year. They will be able to meet their responsibilities by recycling themselves or funding compliance schemes operated by third parties which carry out the recycling on their behalf.

- 4.3 This means that the costs of recycling a proportion of household batteries will be absorbed by the manufacturers and importers of household batteries. This is already the case for low energy light bulbs.
- 4.4 An existing service is in place for the free collection and recycling of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) at the Community Recycling Centres through the compliance scheme run by the European Recycling Platform (ERP). It is proposed to amend this existing contract with ERP to include household batteries. Low energy light bulbs are already included within this contract as they are classified as WEEE.

ADDITION TO EXISTING KERBSIDE COLLECTION

- 4.5 It is proposed that household batteries and low energy light bulbs should be added to the existing dry recyclable kerbside collection. Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) trials confirm that such kerbside collections are likely to generate the highest level of participation.
- 4.6 It is proposed that the household batteries and low energy light bulbs will be taken to the current bulking station by TWS along with the existing materials for recycling, and transferred daily to the Halesfield recycling centre for storage until collection by our current reprocessor.
- 4.7 The collection of household batteries from domestic properties can only be undertaken legally if the batteries, which are hazardous waste, are kept separate from the rest of the waste being carried until the vehicle is unloaded. It is therefore proposed that underslung cages be fitted to the kerbside collection vehicles for this purpose.

RECEPTACLES FOR THE COLLECTION OF BATTERIES

- 4.8 Household batteries and low energy light bulbs will be gathered in separate bags labelled with the WRAP symbols by the householder and then placed into their existing red box for recycling.

ESTIMATED TONNAGES

- 4.9 Based on WRAP trials it is estimated the Council would collect around 536,000 batteries per year from the kerbside which is equivalent to approximately 13.4 tonnes per year. As no trials have taken place for low energy light bulbs a tonnage calculation is not possible at this stage.

START DATE

- 4.10 It is proposed that changes take effect from March 2010 when the Government regulations are in force and kerbside vehicles are being replaced.

5. BENEFITS AND RISKS

BENEFITS

- 5.1 The potential benefits include:
- All household batteries can be safely and easily recycled;
 - Recycling household batteries and low energy light bulbs will help to protect the environment by reducing the amount going directly to landfill;
 - Recycled household batteries can be used to make new batteries, products or materials;
 - According to WRAP nine out of ten people would recycle their batteries if there were a kerbside battery collection scheme in their area;
 - The average household uses 21 batteries a year, all of which could be recycled;
 - From September 2009 incandescent light bulbs are being phased out following the EU Directive on Energy Using Products. Low energy light bulbs will be the most widespread alternative, therefore it is important that there are opportunities for recycling.

RISKS

- 5.2 The contractor has indicated that his staff will not require further training to handle these hazardous materials.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council must ensure that waste is collected in accordance with statutory provisions and therefore ensure that waste batteries (which are classed as hazardous waste) are collected separately from normal household waste. The Council has a contract for the collection of recyclable materials from the kerbside and household batteries and low energy light bulbs will be added to the existing contract by agreement of the parties.
- 6.2 The existing WEEE contract is due to be retendered from June 2010, at which time the collection of batteries will be included in the specification. The existing contract will be amended by agreement of the parties for the period from March 2010 to June 2010.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Cost of proposals:

Description	Nature of Cost	Cost
Alterations to kerbside vehicles – addition of under-slung cages to 8 vehicles* ¹	One off	£4,000-6,000
Recycling bags for each resident (2 per household until ERP contract is re-tendered)	One off	£5,000
Total one off costs - met from existing resources		£9,000-£11,000
Transport from bulking station to Halesfield Recycling Centre	Ongoing	£5,500
Landfill Savings based on 13.4 tonnes extrapolated from WRAP research * ²	Ongoing	(£1,000) circa and increasing
Recycling savings via producer responsibility (2008/2009 actual costs)	Ongoing	(£5,000)
Annual revenue impact		(£500) saving

*¹ A range of costs is provided since retro fitting to the existing fleet would be higher than fitting to new vehicles when they are built.

*² This annual saving will increase each year as landfill costs (gate fee + tax) increase and could reasonably be expected to cover any increases in the cost of transport to the Halesfield Recycling Centre.

- 7.2 There will be no additional costs for kerbside collection with TWS as this is a partnership arrangement. When the WEEE contract is re-tendered in June 2010, the successful contractor will have to provide collection bags to each household. Therefore, there would be no further cost for additional/replacement bags.
- 7.3 The £9,000 -£11,000 one-off costs of this project would be met from existing resources and the net impact on revenue, assuming 13.4 tonnes is redirected from landfill, would be £500 per annum saving.
- 7.4 This arrangement would bring the process of recycling batteries in line with low energy light bulbs and WEEE, which is already collected from the CRCs and the cost borne by the manufacturers' compliance schemes.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The improvements to the service will benefit all wards as access to household battery recycling would be made available to all residents.

9. EQUALITIES INFORMATION

- 9.1 A full equalities impact assessment has been undertaken in respect of the Recycling Services. It has identified that some services only provided at either Community Recycling Centre sites or at bring banks exclude those who do not have access to transport or who have mobility issues. The service change proposed in this report would provide those in the above groups with access to a household battery recycling service.

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Useful Links to other documents

The Waste Batteries & Accumulators Regulations 2009 – Government Guidance Notes

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51268.pdf>

The Hazardous Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2005

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20050894.htm>

The Hazardous Waste Regulations (England and Wales) (Amendment) 2009

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20090507_en_1

Household Battery Collection Trials April 2005 – March 2008

http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/Batteries_report_-_final.5f6bccd3.6153.pdf